

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 24 are pending in the application, with Claims 16 to 24 being newly added. Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 14, all of which are independent, have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,378,887 (Kobayashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,550 (Seita). Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,631,848 (Gaultier) in view of Seita. Claims 4, 6, 10, 12, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kobayashi in view of Seita and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,724,103 (Parrault). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claims 1, 7, and 13, communication by the communication component is permitted when it is determined that the current time at which a communication request is received is within the communication permission time period, and communication by the communication component is prohibited when it is determined that the current time is not within the communication permission time period.

None of the applied documents is seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claims 5, 11, and 14, in a case where prohibition of communication is set by a user, communication of highly confidential information by the communication component is prohibited, and communication of information with low confidentiality by the communication component is permitted.

The applied documents also are not seen to teach or suggest the above-discussed feature recited by Claims 5, 11, and 14.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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